(c) and (d) Only those materials like Raw Materials, Lubricants, Refractories, Petroleum Products, Conveyor Belts, Rolls, Pipes, Bearings and other miscellaneous items which are required but cannot be procured from small scale industrial units located in Bokaro Industrial Area Development Authority are being purchased from the open market through established procedures of tendering.

Shortage of raw material in Mini Steel Plants

1726. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of small or mini-steel plants are facing a severe shortage of raw material;

(b) if so, what are the directions given to SAIL to meet their demand;

(c) whether any survey has been conducted regarding requirements of the mini-steel sector; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken to enhance capacity utilisation of the mini-steel sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) The basic raw material for mini-steel plants (electric furnaces) is carbon steel melting scrap. Indigenous availability of scrap is not enough to fully meet the requirements of the mini-steel plants. However, scrap is now freely importable on Open General Licence. Duty on imported scrap has been reduced from 35 percent to 10 percent to facilitate imports. Indigenous production of sponge iron which is a partial substitute for scrap is also increasing.

(b) The bulk of the steel melting scrap produced in SAIL plants is reused for production of steel in the plants themselves.

(c) According to a recent study by Metallurgical & Engineering Consultants India Ltd., the total annual requirement of scrap/sponge iron of the mini-steel plants is currently about 6 million tonnes.

(d) Increased availability of imported scrap and higher production of sponge iron will enhance capacity utilisation in the mini-steel sector.

बोकारो इस्पात संयंत्र में भ्रष्टाचार

1727. **श्री ईश दत्त यादव** : क्या इस्पात मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार बोकारो इस्पात संयंत्र में व्याप्त घोर भ्रष्टाचार और वहां हो रहे लगातार घाटे की जांच के लिए कोई दल भेजने का विचार रखती है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो कब तक; और

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं ?

इस्पात मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री सन्तोष मोहन देव) : (क) जी, नहीं ।

(ख) प्रश्न नहीं उठता ।

(ग) अनियमितताओं और भ्रष्टाचार के आरोपों की जांच और अन्वेषण करने तथा उनकी छानबीन और उन पर कार्यवाही करने के लिए स्टील अथॉरिटी आफ इंडिया लिमिटेड में नियमित सतर्कता तथा सरकारी स्तर की अन्य एजेंसियों के रूप में पर्याप्त प्रशासकीय और सतर्कता मशीनरी विद्यमान है । भ्रष्टाचार के किसी आरोप की जांच करने के लिए सरकार द्वारा कोई दल भेजने की कोई स्थिति अथवा परिस्थिति सामने नहीं आई है । तथापि, इस संबंध में सतत् और नियमित सतर्कता बनाई रखी जाती है ।

बोकारो इस्पात संयंत्र द्वारा उत्पादन

1728 **श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह** : क्या इस्पात मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) चालू वर्ष के दौरान बोकारो इस्पात संयंत्र ने विभिन्न किस्म के लोहे का श्रेणीवार कुल कितना-कितना उत्पादन किया; और

(ख) गत तीन वर्षों के दौरान बोकारो इस्पात संयंत्र ने कितना-कितना लाभ अर्जित किया अथवा उसे घाटा हुआ ?

इस्पात मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री सन्तोष मोहन देव) : (क) चालू वर्ष के दौरान, अप्रैल, 1992 से 17 जुलाई, 1992 तक की अवधि में बोकारो इस्पात संयंत्र द्वारा उत्पादित कच्चे लोहे की विभिन्न किस्म की कुल मात्रा का श्रेणीवार ब्यौरा निम्नानुसार है:—

श्रेणी	इकाई (टन)
हाई सिलिकॉन	1515
फाउण्डरी ग्रेड	8394
स्टैण्डर्ड बेसिक ग्रेड	15036
ऑफ ग्रेड	18740
कुल :	43685

(ख) पिछले तीन वर्षों के दौरान बोकारो इस्पात संयंत्र द्वारा अर्जित लाभ निम्नानुसार है :—

वर्ष	लाभ (करोड़ रुपये)
1989–90	253.82
1990–91	179.57
1991–92	231.64 (अनन्तिम)

Hike in Steel Price

1729. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Federation of Engineering Industries of India has urged Government to direct SAIL and TISCO to withdraw the recent hike in prices;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard;

(c) whether the price of steel is increasing in the country since its decontrol; and

(d) if so, what effective steps Government propose to take to check the rise in prices of steel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) The Federation of Engineering Industries has represented against the increase in steel prices by the main producers including the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) and the Tata Iron and Steel Company (TISCO).

(b) and (c) After deregulation of prices of steel w.e.f. 16-1-92, the integrated steel plants became free to determine and announce the prices of their products. However, prices were increased by them only in May, 1992 to meet the escalations in input costs. The impact of this price increase on open market prices has not been significant.

(d) Delicensing of the iron and steel sector and decontrol of steel prices will provide the requisite environment for the creation of new capacities in the private sector. Import duties on raw materials for the steel industry have also been reduced. As a result, there will be higher produtcion of steel and greater competitiveness in the steel industry which will have a restraining influence on steel prices.

Setting up of Steel Plants

1730. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have chalked out any plan to set up more integrated steel plants in the country either in Public Sector or Private Sector during the 8th Five Year Plan period;